

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

This Case originated at BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

File #47-444 sm

Report made at BALTIMORE, MARYLAND	Date when made 2-18-43	Period for which made 12-28, 29-42; 1-8, 13, 15, 18-43	Report made by JAMES E. MC MAHON
Title: (changed) SHERMAN ARTHUR WORSTELL v.a.s. W. Sherman Worstell, Jerry Ward, Sherman A. Worstell, S. Arthur Worstell, Sherman Warstell.			Character of Case IMPERSONATION ILLEGAL WEARING OF UNIFORM

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Informant T-1, after reading newspaper article concerning fraud practiced on a Hollywood, California, studio by a bogus soldier, advises this individual [redacted]

Investigation reveals a [redacted]

Subject, upon interview, advises he received a medical discharge from United States Army May 8, 1942, and admits he is identical with person in newspaper article, and also admits obtaining money from Informant T-1 and [redacted] but only as a loan. United States Attorney, Baltimore, Maryland, declines prosecution.

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REFERENCE:

Teletype from Baltimore Field Division to the Bureau and the Los Angeles Field Division dated 1-18-43.

DETAILS:

The title of this case is being changed to include the correct and full name of the subject which is SHERMAN ARTHUR WORSTELL; and also to include all known aliases as reflected from his criminal record forwarded from the Identification Division of the Bureau, which are JERRY WARD, SHERMAN A. WORSTELL, S. ARTHUR WORSTELL and SHERMAN WORSTELL.

AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

On December 28, 1942, WILLIAM B. CLARK, staff writer, Sunday Sun, called at this office and directed attention to an article entitled "Heroes Who Crumble at the H.P.'s Touch."

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which article appeared in the Sunday Sun on December 27, 1942, containing information concerning various impersonations of United States Army personnel. One of the instances cited in this article, which was reprinted from the December issue of the Air Force, official publication of the United States Army Air Force, concerns an un-named individual who, after being invited to visit the Paramount Studios in Hollywood, California, was introduced to Miss CLAUDETTE COLBERT, CECIL B. DE MILLE, and other movie celebrities. This unknown individual was apparently wounded and walking with the aid of crutches, and his story was that he had been struck in the head by a piece of shrapnel seven months prior and had been rendered paralyzed by the blow. He refused to talk about his injury and he made an immediate "hit" with all of the studio personnel. He had his photograph taken with Miss COLBERT, FRED MAC MURRAY and other movie celebrities, in addition to having a voice recording made with Miss COLBERT. He was wine and dine and came back day after day, waiting quietly on the studio set.

The article continued that after about one week, this unknown individual related the story that he had lost his wallet that morning, which contained \$700, everything he had. A collection was then taken up to assist this unknown individual, but before the money was turned over to him his landlady was contacted and she advised the studio personnel that he had never been in the Army and had presently left her home.

WILLIAM B. CRANE then stated that Informant T-1 had contacted him after reading this article, and had advised that according to the information contained in the story concerning the above named individual, it appeared as though this unknown individual was identical with W. ~~SHERMAN~~ MORSTELL who had recently resided in the home of Informant T-1 until sometime in September 1942.

Informant T-1 was contacted by the reporting Agent, and she related

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About two weeks later, the subject telephonically contacted Informant T-1 and advised

whereupon Informant T-1

About January 15, she continued, the subject sent her a letter from the Lawson General Hospital at Atlanta, Georgia, stating that he had been injured and was presently a patient at this hospital. He gave no further indication as to the cause or extent of his injury. Then, in April of 1942, Informant T-1

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[REDACTED]

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He informed the Informant that he was residing at the Emerson Hotel. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The subject then told the Informant that [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] he had been to Hollywood, California, where several of his friends
at the Paramount Movie Studio had financed an operation which enabled him to
walk again without the aid of crutches.

The informant continued that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Informant stated that [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] did not know where he was presently residing. Informant T-1 gave a description of the subject, in addition to describing his luggage and clothing, but this is not being set forth at this time. [REDACTED]

From the Adjutant General's office, 3rd Service Command, Post Office Building, Baltimore, it was ascertained that they had no record on any enlisted man under the name of W. SHERMAN WORSTELL.

All of this information was transmitted to the Los Angeles Field Division with the request that this office advise the Baltimore Office if they had a case open on the subject or if the United States Attorney at Los Angeles desired prosecution after appropriate investigation had been conducted in that field division.

At the United States Marine Hospital it was ascertained that SHERMAN A. WORSTELL, a seaman, of Route 3, Eaton Rapids, Michigan, was admitted to the hospital September 14, 1942, at 3 p.m., at which time his diagnosis reflected that he had malarial fever and hysterical psychosis, vomiting, emotional instability, and multiple sclerosis. The record further reflected that upon being admitted to the hospital on this occasion, the patient refused to offer any personal history other than advising that he was discharged from the Army on May 8, 1942 for paralysis of both legs due to multiple sclerosis. He informed the hospital authorities that he appeared to be improving gradually and was considering returning to sea. The records at this hospital further reflected that a SHERMAN WORSTELL, the same individual as above mentioned, but giving his address as RFD #2, Box 161, Uniontown, Pennsylvania, whose occupation was that of a deck hand aboard the SS Capac on June 18, 1939 to September 27, 1939, was admitted to the Marine Hospital at 2:10 p.m. November 1, 1939, for malarial fever, common cold and secondary syphilis. He was discharged December 9, 1939, since his condition had improved.

The records further reflected that SHERMAN ARTHUR WORSTELL was admitted to the United States Marine Hospital at Galveston, Texas, on June 27, 1937 and discharged July 13, 1937; was admitted to the United States Marine Hospital at Seattle, Washington, October 27, 1936 and discharged November 10, 1936; and was admitted to the United States Marine Hospital at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on February 19, 1937, and discharged March 25, 1937.

These records also reflected that this individual enlisted in the United States Army on December 11, 1941, Army Serial #13043447, was a Private in Battery D, 4th Battalion, Second Field Artillery, and received an honorable medical discharge from the United States Army on May 8, 1942.

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The authorities of the Marine Hospital advised that these records as previously mentioned were all pertaining to the same individual, and since this individual was admitted to the United States Marine Hospital at Baltimore on September 14, 1942, [REDACTED]

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The authorities further advised that the subject's file concerning his service in the United States Army could be located at Fort Howard, Maryland.

Mr. L. W. WATERS, Contact Section, Veterans Administration, Fort Howard, Maryland, produced the records of that office, which reflected that SHERMAN A. WORSTELL, Army Serial #13043447, enlisted in the United States Army on December 11, 1941 (probably at Baltimore, Maryland) and received an honorable certificate of disability discharge May 2, 1942, while he was a patient at the Lawson General Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia. The files of this office contained no further information concerning the subject. Mr. WATERS advised that he did not have any additional information concerning the subject, nor did he know his present address.

Previously, Informant T-1 advised the reporting Agent that [REDACTED]

MARGARET WARFIELD was telephonically contacted at her place of employment and was requested to come to the Baltimore Field Division at her convenience, which she readily agreed to do.

She advised that she met the subject as SHERMAN A. WORSTELL at a USO Club on Charles Street near Mulberry Street about the first or second of September 1942. The subject informed her that he was in the Merchant Marine, was presently living on a boat in the Baltimore harbour and intended to go to the Seamen's Rest Camp at Bay Ridge, Maryland, in the next several days, which he did. She continued that she and her family visited him on several occasions while he was at this rest camp for about two weeks.

MARGARET WARFIELD continued that sometime during the latter part of September 1942 when the subject left the Seamen's Rest Camp at Bay Ridge, she obtained a room for him at Mrs. EDGAR WELLS's, 5527 Bosworth Avenue, where he resided until January 8, 1943. MARGARET WARFIELD continued that she had become quite infatuated with the subject and had given him approximately \$200.00 for living expenses during the time she had known him. She continued that he was married on December 18, 1942, at which time he was living with Mrs. EDGAR WELLS's, but that he did not inform her of this marriage, nor did he tell Mrs. WELLS.

She continued that subject did tell her that at one time he was a freelance motion picture cameraman, but that he had joined the Merchant Marine and

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in the year 1937 he was stationed aboard the United States Navy gunboat Panay when it was bombed on the Yangtze River in China. As a result of this bombing, he had received several shrapnel wounds in his head, which caused him to become partially paralyzed on several occasions, particularly when the weather became very damp; in fact, she stated he informed her that he had a steel plate in the back of his head, however, she could see no scars or marks of any kind. He further informed her that he had spent the past summer in Hollywood, California, and showed her numerous photographs of movie celebrities and a voice recording that he had made with Miss GLADIETTE COLBERT.

MARGARET WARFIELD continued that through her assistance the subject obtained employment at the O.P.A. Rationing Board, Charles Street at Mt. Royal Avenue, but he only kept this job for the month of November because he could not get along with the other employees.

one of

She advised that at no time did he wear his Army uniform, although he told her he had received a medical discharge from the Army and did have an Army uniform.

She advised that she did not know his present address, but advised that she thought he was probably employed as a guard at the Baltimore City Jail.

Mrs. EDGAR WHEAT, 5327 Bosworth Avenue, was interviewed by the reporting Agent and advised that the subject, through the assistance of MARGARET WARFIELD, had rented a room in her home in the latter part of September 1942, and remained until January 8, 1943. Mrs. WHEAT continued that shortly before Christmas the subject left ostensibly to go to his home in Pennsylvania, but returned December 26, 1942, at which time he introduced Mrs. WHEAT to a young lady whom he said was his wife.

Mrs. WHEAT gave the same information concerning the subject as did MARGARET WARFIELD concerning his injuries received while on the gunboat Panay, his trip to Hollywood, California, and his service with the United States Army.

Mrs. WHEAT next stated that she understood that the subject's wife was a student nurse at the Maryland General Hospital but had been released due to the fact that she had married, which was against the regulations.

Mrs. WHEAT did not know the subject's present address but a large suitcase was noted in the front of the WHEAT residence, and when asked by the reporting Agent if this suitcase belonged to the subject, Mrs. WHEAT replied that it did; whereupon, she was requested to notify this office if the subject returned for his suitcase in order that he might be questioned.

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The reporting Agent next called at the Baltimore City Jail under the pretext of obtaining credit information, and was advised that the subject was presently working at this institution and that his present address was 5527 Bosworth Avenue, which address is that of Mrs. WHEAT's. Shortly after this, Mrs. WHEAT telephonically communicated with the writer and advised that the subject had returned to her home for a suitcase, and was presently residing at 5010 Grindale Street, Baltimore.

The subject was located at this address by the reporting Agent and accompanied the Agent to the Baltimore Field Division, where he was interviewed.

He advised that his true name is SHEPARD ARTHUR WORSTELL but was nicknamed JERRY. He continued that he was born March 14, 1917, at Cannonburg, Pennsylvania, and produced birth certificate #658 issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

He stated that from 1937 to 1938 he attended the Georges Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, Public School, and had completed approximately two years of high school. In 1937 he obtained employment with the Merchant Marine and produced a Merchant Marine Seaman's Certificate of Identification issued July 22, 1937, at New Orleans, Louisiana, Serial #Z-93,676-D2, and United States Coast Guard Identification Card #09801517 issued July 22, 1942. He also produced a copy of an honorable discharge from the United States Army which reflected that his Serial number was #1304447, that he was a Private in Battery D, 4th Battalion, Second Field Artillery. This discharge reflected that he had enlisted December 11, 1941, at Baltimore and was discharged May 2, 1942. Subject also produced Passport #33409 issued August 25, 1942, and a Certificate of Service issued by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation, #2236701 issued February 4, 1941, at Baltimore, Maryland.

Subject advised that from 1937 to 1941 he had travelled practically all around the world with the Merchant Marine and had joined the United States Army on December 8, 1941. He continued that during the course of his travels around the world he had contracted a malarial fever known as black water fever, and that shortly after joining the United States Army he had a recurrence of this fever, which rendered him temporarily paralyzed from the waist down. For this reason he was given an honorable medical discharge from the United States Army on May 8, 1942, from the Lawson General Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia. From here, he continued, he travelled to California with the intention of obtaining employment in an airplane factory. One evening while in Los Angeles, California, he went to a local radio studio and saw a command performance given by CECIL DE MILLE. After the performance, he went up to Mr. DE MILLE and asked for an autograph, which he advised he did not get. He then requested Mr. DE MILLE's secretary to permit him to come to the Paramount Studio on a tour. He continued that Mr. DE MILLE's secretary later called him by phone and invited him to go through the studio.

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He advised that all during this time it was still necessary for him to walk with the aid of crutches, and one morning he arrived at the studio at about 10 a.m., was given several pictures of the various movie actresses and actors, a sound recording made with CLAUDETTE COLBERT, and he left at about 2 p.m. that afternoon and did not return to the studio. He emphatically denied that he had ever informed anyone that he had lost his pocketbook while at the studio, and stated that when asked as to why it was necessary for him to walk on crutches, he informed that personnel at the studio that he had received a medical discharge from the Army and was not permitted to talk about it. He continuously denied ever telling anyone at the studio that he had received shrapnel wounds as a result of being torpedoed and which rendered him paralyzed.

The subject next stated that after leaving Hollywood, California, he went to Houston, Texas, where he obtained his Seaman's Papers, then, since his finances were very low and since he knew he was able to walk without the aid of crutches, he hitch-hiked to his home in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, where he stayed for several weeks then returned to Baltimore, Maryland, where he contacted Informant T-1.

Since he was still having considerable difficulty, he went to the Seamen's Rest Camp at Bay Ridge, Maryland, for several weeks, and during the last part of September 1942, through the assistance of a friend of his by the name of MARGARET WARFIELD, he obtained a room at Mrs. EDGAR WHEAT's, where he resided until the first part of January, 1943.

He continued that he was married December 16, 1942, in Baltimore, Maryland, to Miss GERALDINE BRADSHAW of Frederick, Maryland, who, prior to her marriage, was a student nurse at the Maryland General Hospital. The subject, when questioned as to the source of his income during above period of time, advised that his father in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, assisted him financially, and when questioned as to whether Informant T-1 or whether MARGARET WARFIELD had given him any money, he stated that Informant T-1 to the best of his knowledge had given him \$20.00 to pay a hotel bill and about \$10.00 spending money. In addition, he advised MARGARET WARFIELD had spent somewhat over \$100.00 towards his support, but that he intended all of this money to be purely a loan, which he insisted he would repay, and intended to repay as soon as he had obtained steady employment. In addition, he advised that at the present time his wife was pregnant and he intended to obtain employment immediately in order that he could support his wife and himself and repay his loans.

He was further questioned as to his activities in Hollywood, California, and again denied ever telling anyone at the Paramount Studio that he had lost his wallet containing \$700.00 or that he had been injured as a result of being torpedoed.

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The following signed statement was taken from the subject, the original of which is being retained in the files of the Baltimore Field Division:

Baltimore, Maryland
January 18, 1943

"I, SHERMAN ARTHUR WORSTELL, make the following voluntary statement to JAMES E. MC NABON, whom I know to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me and I know this statement can be used against me.

"I was in the U. S. Merchant Marine from 1937 until about 1941. I contracted malaria in Ecuador in 1937 and Black-water fever in Portuguese East Africa in 1941. On December 6, 1941 I enlisted in the U. S. Army at Baltimore, Md., was sent to Ft. Meade, Md., for several days and then to Ft. Bragg, N. C. While at Ft. Bragg, N. C. I had a recurrence of malarial and blackwater fever and was sent to Lawson Gen'l Hospital at Atlanta, Georgia. This fever recurrence rendered me temporarily paralyzed in my legs and when I was discharged, honorably, from the U. S. Army on May 8, 1942 I was using crutches.

"I went home to Eaton Rapids, Pa., to Baltimore, Md., New York City, Atlanta, Ga., New Orleans, La., Houston, Texas, and Los Angeles, California, arriving in Los Angeles sometime in July or thereabouts of 1942, still using crutches. I did not wear my uniform during this aforementioned period of time I was travelling around.

"One evening I attended a radio performance given by CECIL B. DE MILLE, in Los Angeles and went back for his autograph after the show. I asked him at this time if I could come to see the studio and a day or so later his secretary called and invited me around to Paramount Studio. I arrived about 10:00 a.m. in the morning wearing my summer Army trousers, shirt, tie, and garrison hat, minus all insignia which I knew I could not wear since I was honorably discharged from the U. S. Army. I wore these summer trousers and shirt because I was informed I could wear this for 90 days after my discharged. I was toured around the studio, this day, part of the time in a wheel chair since I could not yet walk. I was given photographs of several movie 'stars' and a voice recording of CLAUDETTE COLBERT and myself talking. I left that evening about 2:00 p.m. I did not inform anyone at the studio that I had lost my wallet containing all of my money nor did I know they would take up a collection for me, which I did not received. I purchased my own lunch at the studio on this day, and my only purpose in going was merely to see how a movie is made. I did not inform anyone at the studio that I was injured by shrapnel from a torpedo but when asked how I received my leg injuries informed the people that I had received a medical discharge from the U. S. Army and could not talk about it. I attended the studio only this one day.

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Thereafter I went to Houston, Texas, where my legs finally became improved so I discarded the crutches. From here I went to Uniontown, Pa., then to Baltimore, Md.

"In Baltimore, I contacted (Informant T-1).
(Informant T-1)

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"In September, 1942, I met Miss MARGARET WARFIELD, in Baltimore, Md., who persuaded me to go to the Seamen's Rest Home at Bay Ridge, Md. because my legs were still causing me discomfort, which I did for about two weeks. At Bay Ridge I told several of the other patients I was torpedoed, rendering me partially paralyzed.

"Previously I informed (Informant T-1), my injuries were caused by being struck by an army truck.

"After leaving Bay Ridge Miss WARFIELD obtained a room for me to live in at Mrs. EDGAR WHEAT's in Baltimore, and also gave me somewhat over \$100.00 to live on over a period of time from September to December 1942. I had previously told Miss WARFIELD that my injuries were caused by being torpedoed on the gunboat Panay in 1937, which is not true.

"My only purpose in telling the story about the Panay and the truck running over me was merely to have something to talk about. I did not do this with the purpose of obtaining any money or anything of value by such false statements. The people who loaned me money, (Informant T-1) and Miss WARFIELD, did so with the understanding I would repay them when I obtained steady employment after recovering from my injuries which I intend to do.

"I have read this statement consisting of four pages, have initialed the first three pages and signed the last page and it is the truth to the best of my knowledge."

(signed) S. ARTHUR WORSTELL

Witnessed:

JAMES E. MC KAHON,

Special Agent, F.B.I., Baltimore, Md.

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A description of the subject as obtained from personal observation and interrogation is set forth as follows:

Age - 25 (born 3-14-17 at Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania)
 Height - 6'1"
 Weight - 195
 Eyes - blue
 Hair - dark brown, bushy
 Complexion - medium
 Scars or marks - none
 Relatives - mother, MILLIE WORSTELL, RFD #3, Eaton Rapids, Michigan
 father, WILLIAM WORSTELL, RFD #1, Uniontown, Pennsylvania
 Occupation - seaman
 Marital status - married
 Selective Service status - registered October 16, 1940, Precinct 4, Georges Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania (order number unknown)
 Social Security #210-09-6986

In addition to the above information, the subject admitted that he was arrested in Seattle, Washington, in 1936 for vagrancy and was sentenced to serve 25 days in the local jail. Also he was arrested in 1937 in New Orleans, Louisiana, for vagrancy and served one day in the local jail.

He further advised that he had resigned his position as guard at the Baltimore City Jail on January 13, 1943, because of the insufficient salary he received.

The facts of this case were presented to the United States Attorney BERNARD J. FLYNN, Baltimore, who advised that since the subject had not worn his uniform while in the State of Maryland, and since he had not impersonated an enlisted man in the United States Army and apparently did not obtain any financial aid through false pretenses, he would decline prosecution.

The facts of this case were transmitted to the Bureau and to the Los Angeles Field Division with the request that the case be presented to the United States Attorney at Los Angeles, California, for his opinion as to prosecution, and the Los Angeles Field Division advised that the United States Attorney at Los Angeles, had declined prosecution because a removal of the subject, who is partially crippled and who has recently received an honorable discharge from the United States Army, would cause unfavorable departmental publicity for a crime which was a misdemeanor.

- C L O S E D -

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INFORMANT

Informant T-1 -



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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BALTIMORE

FILE NO. 47-2769

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 2/10/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/2, 4-6, 9, 21/43	REPORT MADE BY LESLIE F. WARREN OD
TITLE CHANGED - SHERMAN ARTHUR WORSTELL, with aliases: W. Sherman Worstell, Jerry Worstell, Jerry Ward.			CHARACTER OF CASE IMPERSONATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject on July 14, 1942, while wearing uniform of non-commissioned soldier U.S. Army and using crutches, appeared in Radio broadcast conducted by CECIL B. DEMILLE and informed that he had been injured in combat and requested permission to visit movie studios. As a result, DEMILLE subsequently arranged visit to Paramount Studio, at which time subject was feted and entertained by movie stars. Collection of approximately \$100.00 taken up in subject's behalf but was not turned over to subject due to suspicion arising from WORSTELL'S refusal to discuss his specific military connection and place of injury, claiming same to be a military secret. USA Los Angeles declined prosecution.

RUC.

REFERENCE:

Bureau letter dated January 11, 1943

DETAILS:

Title of this case is being changed to reflect the true name of subject as SHERMAN ARTHUR WORSTELL, and the additional aliases JERRY WORSTELL and JERRY WARD.

This investigation resulted from a teletype dated December 29, 1942 from the Baltimore Office, which reflected that subject who presently resided in Baltimore, Maryland, was feted by CECIL B. DEMILLE.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>[Signature]</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="text-align: right;">55 17</div>
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and other celebrities at Paramount Studios after informing them that he was an enlisted man in the United States Army who received a brain injury caused by shrapnel, rendering him paralyzed below the waist. In addition, it was disclosed that subject had been photographed with numerous movie stars and had voice recording made with CLAUDETTE COLBERT and had several hundred dollars collected for him prior to learning he was not paralyzed and not in the United States Army.

Miss FLORENCE COLE, Assistant to CECIL B. DeMILLE, Paramount Studios, Hollywood, advised that subject appeared at a Lux Radio Theater rehearsal on the night of July 14, 1942 at the Vine Street Playhouse. At the time of this appearance, subject was dressed as a private in the United States Army and was using crutches. He gave the appearance of being paralyzed below the waist. Subject came back stage and introduced himself as JERRY WORSTELL and stated that he had been recently injured in combat and requested an autographed photograph of Mr. DeMILLE. Request was also made to visit one of the movie studios. Mr. DeMILLE arranged for the photograph and also a visit to the Paramount Studios on the following day. On July 15, 1942, subject appeared at the studio gates and the Paramount Studio officials secured a wheel chair for subject in which he remained throughout his visit at the studio, which lasted a full day. During this visit subject was again wearing the khaki uniform, minus a coat and collar insignia. The cap worn displayed the insignia of the United States Army. The uniform otherwise appeared authentic.

WORSTELL advised numerous Paramount Studio personnel that he had received a brain injury caused by shrapnel which rendered him paralyzed below the waist. He also let it be known that he had lost his wallet enroute from San Francisco, and as result, a collection of approximately One Hundred Dollars was taken up among the employees for subject's benefit. Due to suspicions arising from WORSTELL'S refusal to discuss his specific military connection and place of injury, claiming same to be a military secret, together with the fact that he was unaccompanied and hitchhiking around the City of Los Angeles, this money was withheld pending investigation. In the meantime, WORSTELL disappeared, and attempts to locate him made by Paramount employees were unsuccessful and his present whereabouts was unknown.

It was also determined that subject had secured autographed photographs from certain movie stars and had had a photograph and voice recording made with CLAUDETTE COLBERT, movie actress. No complaint was made to the police or the Los Angeles office at that time. Consequently no case was opened in Los Angeles. The address given by subject at the time of this visit was 9305 Burton Way, CR 59733.

The above information supplied by Miss COLE was verified by DOROTHY GREWATZ, Secretary to Mr. DeMILLE. Miss GREWATZ arranged for the entrance of subject to the studio and had also attempted to locate him at the address given.

Miss CLAUDETTE COLBERT advised that subject appeared on the movie lot in the company of several Paramount employees and was introduced to her as JERRY WORSTELL. It was advised that there were many soldiers visiting the studios during this time and it was not uncommon to introduce them to different motion picture personalities. Subject remained on this set for several hours, during which time some photographs were taken of subject, Miss COLBERT and others. Also a microphone was lowered during a conversation between subject, FRED McMURRAY, actor, and Miss COLBERT, and a recording was made of this conversation, unknown to subject, which was later played back for subject's benefit. This recording was also played for the benefit of Reporting Agent, and the text therein consisted largely of different gags and the conversation went in a "kidding" manner between the above mentioned three.

Mr. CHICO ALONZO, Assistant Director Paramount Studios advised in substance relative to subject's activities while on the Paramount lot, the same as related above. In addition it was disclosed that subject had passed the word to the office boy who was detailed with moving subject in the wheel chair around the lot, that he, WORSTELL, had lost his wallet enroute from San Francisco to Los Angeles. As a result, ALONZO had taken up a collection from all of the employees present on a particular set in which Miss COLBERT was working that day, the amount collected approximating \$105.00. Before it was turned over to subject, Mr. WILLIAM F. COMBS, Chief of Paramount Police Department, was contacted for his opinion. COMBS advised that the money be held up until subject's identity could be established. As a result, subject was questioned by Mr. ALONZO and others in an attempt to determine his exact army status, but subject was very reluctant to furnish details, offering as an excuse that his recent activities were a military secret. This aroused ALONZO'S suspicions even more, and as a result, the money was returned to the individual contributors and was not turned over to subject.

Mr. MITCHELL LISEN, Director Paramount Studios, verified ALONZO'S story.

Through Mr. KENNY LOCAN and Chief of Police COMBS, a photograph of subject taken on the set in company with CLAUDETTE COLBERT was obtained. This photograph was released to the Los Angeles Office with the understanding that it would not be used for newspaper publicity. This photograph is being made a part of the file of this case.

Mr. W. F. COMBS, Chief of Police, advised that attempts had been made to locate subject at 9503 Barton Way, telephone CRestview 59733 shortly after his visit to the studio. However, the occupants of this address stated that he only stayed there a couple of days and they knew nothing about him or his present whereabouts.

The recording mentioned in this report was Number 363, Production 1340, July 15, 1942. This recording is presently maintained in the files of Paramount Studio, Hollywood.

On January 9, 1943, facts of this case were discussed with Assistant United States Attorney HOWARD V. CALVERLEY, who advised that this office was not in favor of prosecution unless subject was definitely not in the Army or not actually crippled. Baltimore was requested to interview subject to determine this fact. On this date the Charlotte office advised by teletype that subject had enlisted in the United States Army under the name of SHERMAN A. WORSTELL, Baltimore, on December 11, 1941, Army Serial Number 13043447, born March 15, 1917, Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania, honorably discharged on May 8, 1942 to mother's care, Mrs. MILLIE WORSTELL, Eaton Rapids, Michigan, due to sclerosis, progressive nervous system disease.

A teletype received from Baltimore likewise disclosed this information and in addition disclosed that subject's disability discharge was from Lawson General Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia.

On January 2, 1943 a criminal record of subject was forwarded from the Bureau and is set out as follows:

FBI Number 2049303:

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME & NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD, San Antonio, Texas	Jerry Ward # _____	5-1-35	inv.	
PD, New Orleans, La.	Sherman A. Worstell #29721	8-15-37	fug. from Union-town, Pa.	dis.
PD, Neville Island Branch, Pittsburgh Pa.	S. Arthur Worstell #999	Applicant for position 3-25-40		
War Dept. Wash., D.C.	Sherman Arthur Worstell #13043447			

Subject is described as follows:

Born:	March 15, 1917
Height:	6'3/4"
Weight:	180 lbs.
Eyes:	Blue
Hair:	Brown
Complexion:	Dark.

On January 19, 1943, Baltimore advised by teletype that subject had not been injured in combat but had contracted a form of malaria fever in Cape Town, South Africa in the spring of 1941 while a seaman in the Merchant Marine. After recovery, he had joined the United States Army and had subsequently had a recurrence of this fever, rendering him temporarily paralyzed below the waist. At the time of his release from the Lawson General Hospital, Atlanta, on a medical discharge, May 8, 1942, subject was still using crutches to walk. Shortly after this release, he travelled by bus to Los Angeles, California and at this time visited the Paramount Studios as related above.

Subject, during interview, denied that he disclosed the fact that he had lost his wallet and also that he had received injuries in battle so that he had to use crutches. He also denied stating he was presently in the United States Army, but admitted wearing trousers, shirt, tie and garrison hat, without insignia, on this visit. It should be noted that the photograph taken of subject at Paramount Studios reflects that the Army insignia was on the hat at the time the photograph was taken.

On January 21, 1943, the facts of this case were again discussed with Assistant United States Attorney HOWARD V. CALVERLEY, at which time it was advised that prosecution would be declined. It was the opinion of the United States Attorney that removal of subject, who is crippled and recently honorably discharged from the United States Army, on a misdemeanor from Baltimore to Los Angeles would involve additional expense for an attendant to move subject, and might cause unfavorable departmental publicity.

In view of this fact, no further investigation is being conducted and the case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

RES:RM

47-27137-10

Date: February 6, 1943

To: SAC, New York

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: W. BERNHARDT TONSTEELE
IMPERSONATION

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent Robert H. Dunham, dated January 23, 1943 at Washington, D. C.

Since the request was made as is reflected in reference report it has become unnecessary to interview Lieutenant George F. Brannan.

You may therefore consider this case referred upon completion without further action.

Mr. Tolson	cc-Baltimore
Mr. E. A. Tamm	Washington
Mr. Clegg	Los Angeles
Mr. Coffey	COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
Mr. Glavin	MAILED 6
Mr. Ladd	FEB 8 1943 P.M.
Mr. Nichols	FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Mr. Rosen	U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Mumford	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

55 FEB 12 1943

303

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BALTIMORE, MD.

FILE NO.

47-3675

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 1/25/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/18/43	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT S. DUNHAM RSD:MEW
TITLE W. SHERMAN WORSTELL			CHARACTER OF CASE IMPERSONATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Lt. GEORGE F. BRADSHAW, who wrote article in question in the magazine "Air Force", published by the Air Corps, containing reference to subject's activities in California, presently located at 101 Park Avenue, New York City, Aircraft Publications.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Telephonic communication from Supervisor ROSWELL E. SMITH of the Bureau, January 6, 1943, to Special Agent FRANK B. MCGIVERN.

DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

In the reference telephonic communication Supervisor ROSWELL E. SMITH of the Bureau advised that the Baltimore Field Division had received information from an unnamed person to the effect that the latter had noted an article in the Baltimore Sun which stated that an unknown individual was wanted for impersonation. The unnamed informant advised the Baltimore Office that subject WORSTELL, who fits the description of the unknown subject, was in the vicinity of Baltimore. Supervisor SMITH stated that after some investigation, it had been determined that the article in question was a re-write from one taken from the magazine "Air Force", which is published by the U. S. Army Air Corps, and the particular article in question was entitled, "Heroes Who Crumble at the M. P.'s Touch", written by Lt. GEORGE F. BRADSHAW. Mr. SMITH stated that

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT: 3 - Bureau 2 - Baltimore 2 - New York 2 - Los Angeles 2 - Washington Field		47-27137-10 12 JAN 25 1943	RECORDED INDEXED

According to the article, an unknown individual had gone to Hollywood, California, and had represented to CECIL B. DeMILLE that he was a Private in the army, had been crippled in action, and that he had lost his pocket-book which contained \$700.00. As a result of his talk with Mr. DeMILLE, a purse was taken up for him in Hollywood, and this unknown individual also made a voice recording with CLAUDETTE COLBERT.

The writer was advised by Miss MARY F. BEARDON, Information Clerk, Munitions Building, Washington, D. C., that Lt. GEORGE F. BRADSHAW had been stationed here but is presently located at 101 Park Avenue, New York City, Aircraft Publications.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

Will contact Lt. GEORGE F. BRADSHAW, 101 Park Avenue, Aircraft Publications, and interview him concerning his article to determine the name of the subject and any other background information he may have concerning him, copies of the report to be sent to Baltimore and Los Angeles.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 21 1943

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease

FBI LOS ANGELES

1-21-43

12-18 PM

LCH

DIRECTOR AND SAC BALTIMORE

RING. SHERMAN ARTHUR WORSTELL, WAS, IMPERSONATION, ILLEGAL WEARING OF UNIFORM. USA LOS ANGELES DECLINES PROSECUTION. IS OPINION USA THAT REMOVAL OF SUBJECT, WHO IS CRIPPLED AND RECENTLY HONORABLY DISCHARGED FROM U. S. ARMY ON MISDEMEANOR, WOULD CAUSE UNFAVORABLE DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICITY.

4000

END ACK

BUREAU

320 PM OK FBI WA RDN

BA

OK FBI BA MLG

ALL DISCONNECT

EX-53 RECORDED

FBI

REC-50254

56 FEB 1 1943

12 JAN 22 1943

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 19 1943

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Mumford	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

FBI BALTIMORE 1-19-43 5-15AM CBH
 DDIRECTOR AND SAC LOS ANGELES
 RING. SHERMAN ARTHUR WORSTELL, WAS., IMPERSONATION, ILLEGAL WEARING OF
 UNIFORM. SUBJECT ON INTERVIEW ADVISES HE CONTRACTED BLACKWATER
 FEVER, A FORM OF MALARIAL FEVER, IN CAPETOWN, S. AFRICA IN
 SPRING NINETEEN FORTYONE, WHILE SEAMAN IN MERCHANT MARINE. AFTER
 RECOVERY HE JOINED US ARMY DECEMBER ELEVENTH, NINETEEN FORTYONE AT
 BALTIMORE, MD., WAS TRANSFERRED TO FT. BRAGG, N. C., WHERE HE HAD A
 RECURRENCE OF THIS FEVER RENDERING HIM TEMPORARILY PARALYZED BELOW WAIST.
 HE WAS HOSPITALIZED AT LAWSON GENERAL HOSPITAL, ATLANTA, GA., AND RELEASED
 FROM HOSPITAL AND FROM ARMY ON MEDICAL DISCHARGE MAY EIGHTH, NINETEEN
 FORTYTWO, WHILE STILL USING CRUTCHES TO WALK. THEREAFTER
 HE TRAVELLED BY BUS TO LOS ANGELES, CAL., AND WAS INVITED TO VISIT
 PARAMOUNT STUDIO BY CECIL B. DE MILLES SECRETARY. SUBJECT ARRIVED AT
 STUDIO ABOUT TEN AM, WAS GIVEN SEVERAL AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOGRAPHS
 AND A VOICE RECORDING WITH CLAUDETTE COLBERT AND LEFT ABOUT TWO PM AND
 DID NOT RETURN. HE STATED HE DID NOT TELL THEM HE LOST HIS WALLET AND
 WHEN ASKED HOW HE RECEIVED INJURIES SO THAT HE HAD TO USE CRUTCHES
 REPLIED HE HAD RECEIVED A MEDICAL DISCHARGE FROM THE US ARMY AND COULD
 NOT TALK ABOUT IT. HE DID NOT INFORM ANYONE AT STUDIO HE HAD
 RECEIVED BRAIN INJURY CAUSED BY SHRAPNEL RENDERING HIM TEMPORARILY
 PARALYZED. HE ALSO DENIED STATING HE WAS PRESENTLY IN US ARMY
 BUT ADMITTED WEARING TROUSERS, SHIRT, TIE, AND GARRISON HAT, WITHOUT
 INSIGNIA, ON THIS VISIT. BALTIMORE SUN NEWSPAPER GAVE ORIGINAL
 INFORMATION TO THIS OFFICE AND ARE Awaiting OUTCOME. LOS
 ANGELES TO CONDUCT NECESSARY INVESTIGATION TO DISPROVE OR CONFIRM
 SUBJECTS STATEMENT. PRESENT TO USA LOS ANGELES AND SUTEL IMMEDIATELY.

SOU CY

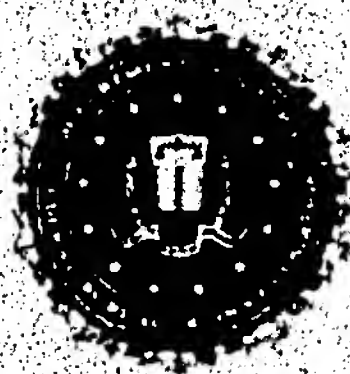
END
 ACK IN ORDER
 WASH 5-18 AM FBI WASH DC DJK
 LA OK FBI LA RLC M
 DISCONNECT

RECORDED

47-27137-8
 SEARCHED
 SERIALIZED
 INDEXED
 FILED
 JAN 20 1943
 FBI - LOS ANGELES

56 JAN 27 1943

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 4, 1943

WHR:DC

Call: 10:45 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSEN

Re: W. SHERMAN WORSTELL alias Jerry -
IMPERSONATION

At this time Special Agent Bauknight at Baltimore called to advise that the Baltimore Office was in receipt of a teletype from Los Angeles stating that the Los Angeles Office had no record of the case but that preliminary investigation disclosed that a Jerry Worstell, possibly identical with the subject, had appeared in Hollywood, California, in the early part of 1941. He was on crutches and alleged he had been injured at Pearl Harbor.

As you will recall this case arose upon the receipt of information from a reporter of the Baltimore Sun calling attention to an article appearing in the Air Force Magazine concerning an unknown individual who had passed himself off as a hero, stating he had been injured at Pearl Harbor. It appears that he was acclaimed in Hollywood, California, as a hero and the sum of \$700.00 was collected and turned over to him when he stated he had lost his pocketbook.

It has since been learned that subject was in fact in the Army and was given a medical discharge when it was found he was suffering from the disease of syphilis.

Respectfully,

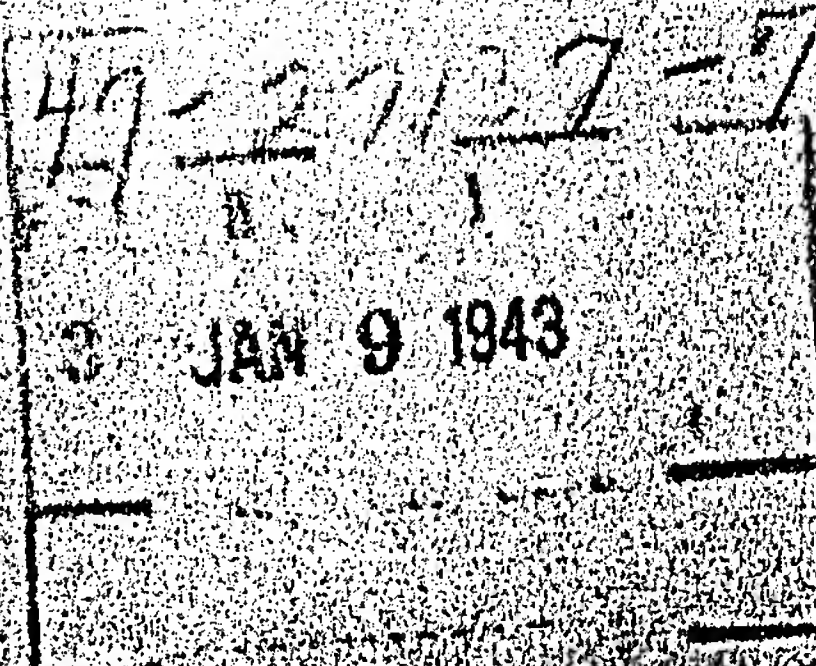
M. H. Horton

M. H. Horton



JAN 22 1943

RECORDED
SL



RES:KLV

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

44-27137-6

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

JANUARY 7, 1943

Transmit the following message to:

SAC, LOS ANGELES

U. CARPENTIER MISTELL, IMPERSONATION. FURNISH BUREAU AND BALTIMORE
COMPREHENSIVE DETAILS OF ACTIVITIES OF INDIVIDUAL IN HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA
 WHO IS ALLEGED TO HAVE FALSELY REPRESENTED HIMSELF TO BE A PRIVATE
 IN ARMY AND REPAIRED MOTION PICTURE EMPLOYEES. WITH TELETYPE
 SHOULD INCLUDE NAME AND DESCRIPTION USED BY IMPERSONATOR SO WAR
 DEPARTMENT FILES CAN BE CHECKED AND BALTIMORE CAN DETERMINE WHETHER
 HE IS IDENTICAL WITH CAPTIONED SUBJECT. SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE
 IF A CASE IS MADE SHOULD BE ISSUED LOCALLY YOUR OFFICE AND BALTIMORE.
 EXPEDITE.

HOOVER.

CC BALTIMORE
WASHINGTON FIELD

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
 Mr. Clegg _____
 Mr. Glavin _____
 Mr. Ladd _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tracy _____
 Mr. Carson _____
 Mr. Coffey _____
 Mr. Hendon _____
 Mr. Kramer _____
 Mr. McGuire _____
 Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Miss Gandy _____

JAN 8 1943

59 JAN 15 1943

SENT VIA

Per

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 8, 1943

RES:EVD

Time: 4:00 P. M., 1-7-43

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSEN

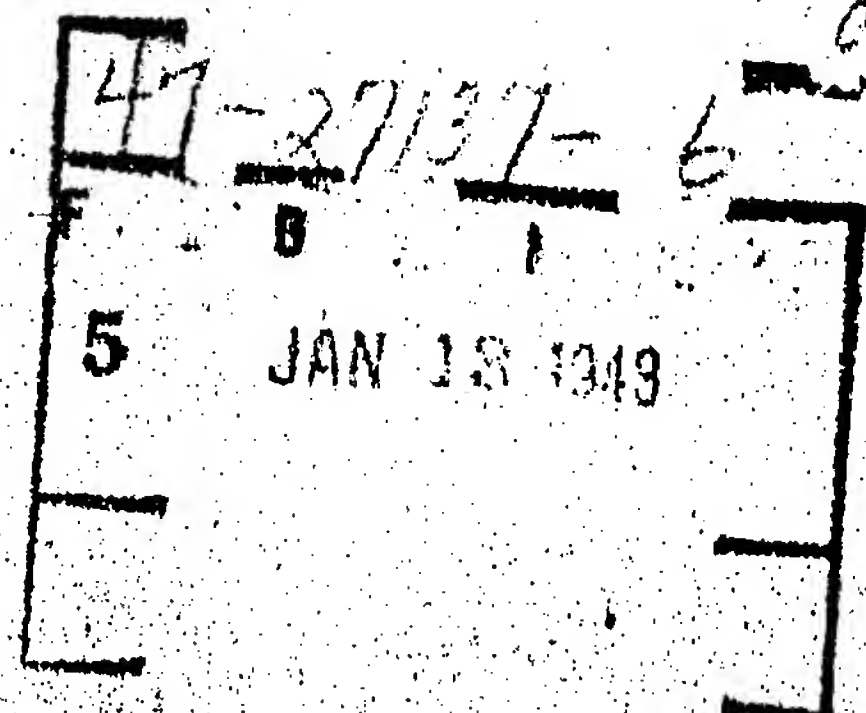
Re: W. SHERMAN WORSTELL - IMPERSONATION

At this time, Number One Man Bauknight of the Baltimore Office telephonically advised the writer they had received a wire from Los Angeles reflecting confirmation of the material which was first reported in the Air Force article concerning the impersonator who defrauded Cecil B. DeMille. Mr. Bauknight further added that inquiry in Baltimore had revealed that W. Sherman Worstell had Army serial number 13043447, and he enlisted on December 11, 1941, and was discharged on May 8, 1942.

Mr. Bauknight was advised that the Charlotte Office was being requested by teletype to furnish the military history of the subject to the Los Angeles and Baltimore Divisions, after which the Los Angeles Office should present the facts for a prosecutive opinion.

Respectfully,

Russell E. Smith
R. E. Smith



RES:EVD

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

Date: January 11, 1943

To: SAC, Los Angeles

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: W. Sherman Corstall - [REDACTED]

Reference is made to Bureau teletype dated January 7, 1943, copies of which were received by the offices receiving copies of this letter.

A search of the Army records in Washington has revealed no information concerning anyone named W. Sherman Corstall in the United States Army. It will be recalled W. Sherman Corstall is the name of the suspect who is very closely identical with the Jerry Corstall about whom inquiries have been made by the Los Angeles Office.

A search of the Identification Division files in the Bureau has disclosed a criminal record for one Sherman Arthur Corstall, alias Jerry Ward, FBI number 2049303. A copy of the transcript of this criminal record is attached for the offices receiving this letter. It is likely that the Sherman Arthur Corstall mentioned above is identical with W. Sherman Corstall and Jerry Corstall. In order that this probability may be definitely established, there are attached for the offices receiving this letter one copy of the photograph of Sherman Arthur Corstall, FBI number 2049303, Army serial number 1344247, Orange, Los Angeles and Baltimore, which offices receive two copies of this photograph.

In order that this case may be promptly and appropriately concluded, it is necessary for the United States Attorney in Los Angeles, California, to be fully aware of the exact military history of the subject. The Charlotte Office has already been requested by teletype to obtain this information. It is believed that when this military history is ascertained, the subject was entitled to wear his uniform until approximately August 8, 1942. Of course, if he was discharged on May 8, 1942 as has been indicated by the Baltimore Office, any representation to the contrary by the United States Army would constitute a violation of the Espionage Statute if the other elements are present.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

F B I

RECEIVED READING ROOM

JAN 11 10 06 AM '43

59 JAN 15 1943

Mr. Tolson

Mr. E. A. Tamm

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Glavin

Mr. Ladd

Mr. Nichols

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Tracy

Mr. Carson

Mr. Coffey

Mr. Hendon

Mr. Kramer

Mr. McGuire

Mr. Quinn Tamm

Mr. Nease

Miss Gandy

SAC, Los Angeles

-2-

The Bureau desires the Los Angeles Office to afford this case preferred attention and present the complete facts to the appropriate United States Attorney for a prosecutive opinion. The Baltimore Division should be promptly contacted in order that it may determine whether the W. Sherman Horstall in its territory is identical with the Jerry Horstall who operated in the Los Angeles territory.

As has been previously indicated, the Los Angeles and Baltimore Divisions are authorized to make local simultaneous press releases.

Enclosures

cc-Baltimore

Charlotte

Washington, D. C.

RECEIVED
FBI
JUL 15 1964



Sherman A. Worstell

FBI #2049303

ASN #13043447

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JANUARY 7, 1948

SAC, LOS ANGELES AND CHARLOTTE

TO: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

W. SHERMAN FORSTELL, IMPERSONATION. SUBJECT PROBABLY IDENTICAL WITH

Transmit the following message to:

SHERMAN A. FORSTELL, ASN ONE THREE EIGHT FOUR THREE FOUR FOUR SEVEN,

DELETED RECHARGED FROM ARMY MAY EIGHT, NINETEEN FORTY TWO, BEING

WEARING UNIFORM IN CALIFORNIA IN JULY EIGHTY NINETY DAY PERIOD. COM-

plete records SHERMAN A. FORSTELL LOCATED HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA.

CHARLOTTE STATE MILITARY HISTORY SHERMAN A. FORSTELL ED SETEL LOS

ANGELES AND BALTIMORE.

HOOVER

cc - Baltimore (regular mail)

cc - Washington Field Division (by mail)

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
JAN 10 07 PM '48
DEPT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

115

JAN 9 1948

50 JAN 11 1948

Andy

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____



RES:BSP

Call: 1:30 P.M.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 31, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSEN

RE: W. SHERMAN WORSTELL
IMPERSONATION

At this time Number One Man Fred Bauknight, of the Baltimore Office, telephoned the writer to correct the erroneous inferences left in the earlier conversation today with SAC Ed Soucy, who was not in possession of the full facts.

Mr. Bauknight stated the Sun article in question was a reprint of an article from the "Air Force", December, 1942, issue. This magazine is the official publication of the United States Air Corps. The article was written by Lieutenant George F. Bradshaw. The article was entitled "Heroes Who Crumble at the MP's Touch." The article essentially was reported to you on December 28, 1942.

Mr. Bauknight now reported the results of an interview with the individual who reported the suspect in Baltimore as being identical with the subject of the article. This woman is a Mrs. Walker. She says she met an individual named W. Sherman Worstell out at Fort Meade last summer when she was visiting a relative there. She renewed acquaintance with Worstell in Baltimore and after he left town she received a letter from him saying he was in the Lawson General Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia. In April, 1942, Worstell contacted Mrs. Walker in Baltimore, after his trip south. At that time he was on crutches. He stated he was a hopeless cripple as he had been run over by an Army truck. He told her he had lost his pocketbook but did not ask her for any money at that time. He went away again.

In August, 1942, Worstell returned to the home of Mrs. Walker, where he stayed several weeks free and obtained \$35.00 from her as a loan, which has not been repaid. At this time he had with him a record which had a recording of his own voice and the voice of another which he said belonged to Claudette Colbert. It is observed these statements of Worstell lead to the inescapable conclusion that he either is the same person mentioned in the Air Force article or that he knew about it.

Worstell became sick when he was at Mrs. Walker's home in August and she obtained his Army serial number and endeavored to get him in the Army hospital. They would not take him but suggested he go to the Marine hospital. She believes he went to the Marine hospital and then disappeared again.



50 JAN 17 1943

Mrs. Walker claims she actually saw Worstell in Baltimore, Maryland, doing some Christmas shopping on the evening of December 24, 1942. She said she had learned that he had a girl friend in town named Warfield and that he is supposed to be living at 5327 Bosworth Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. This has not been verified.

When Mrs. Walker saw the Sun article she immediately felt that W. Sherman Worstell was the individual mentioned as having fleeced Cecil B. DeMille in Hollywood, California, and that possibly the FBI or somebody was looking for him, so she called the newspaper, which resulted in the reporter coming to the Baltimore Office on December 28, 1942.

Mr. Bauknight said the Baltimore Office had wired Los Angeles on December 29, 1942, furnishing a brief summary of the facts and requesting advice as to whether the Los Angeles Office knew anything about the imposter who fleeced DeMille. No reply had been received by the Baltimore Office at the time of this call. Mr. Bauknight was advised by the writer that Files has no record of W. Sherman Worstell.

ACTION TAKEN

Mr. Bauknight was advised not to take any further action in this case until we could determine whether the individual in Hollywood, California, had violated a Federal Statute in the Bureau's jurisdiction and had not been prosecuted for it. It is observed there is no violation in the Baltimore territory. Mr. Bauknight was requested to advise the Bureau when he receives a reply from the Los Angeles Office.

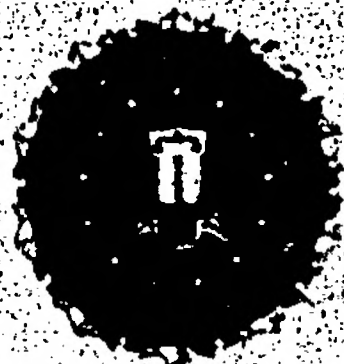
ACTION TO BE TAKEN

1. The Washington Field Office should be instructed to obtain a copy of the Air Force article in question and interview Lieutenant George F. Bradshaw, its author, to determine the name, identity and other facts surrounding the perpetrator of the Hollywood episode.
2. The Los Angeles Office should determine whether a violation within the Bureau's jurisdiction occurred in Hollywood and develop same if it has not already been handled.
3. Upon receipt of information from Los Angeles, the Baltimore Office should determine whether subject is identical with the Los Angeles subject and get him apprehended.

Respectfully,

Roswell E. Smith

Roswell E. Smith



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

FSS:KLF

December 31, 1942

Call: 11:40 AM
Dictated: 11:50 AM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSEN

RE: W. SHERMAN WORSTELL
IMPERSONATION

FACTS:

At this time the writer communicated with SAC Ed Soucy, Baltimore, concerning the W. Sherman Worstell case. Mr. Soucy explained that the article referred to in your memorandum of December 22, 1942, was a general feature article based on a prepared Bureau release concerning interesting impersonation cases. If that is the case there is little possibility that the suspect in Baltimore is identical with any previous Bureau case. Mr. Soucy said he had sent a man out to see if the suspect in Baltimore is involved in an impersonation case but apparently this matter is routine. He said if anything developed of interest, he would advise the Bureau.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

None.

Respectfully,

Roswell E. Smith

Roswell E. Smith.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

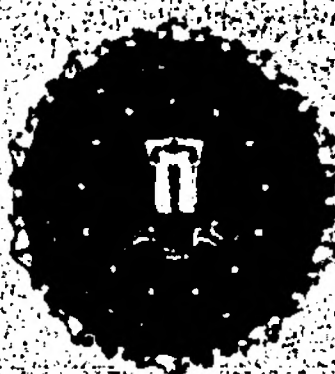
6- *Smith*



50 JAN 11 1943

RECORDED
EX-46

47-2137-2
11 JAN 9 1943



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 28, 1942

AR:JSF
Rec'd: 8:43 p.m.
Typed: 1:04 a.m.
12/29

47-

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Re: W. SHERMAN WORSTELL
IMPERSONATION

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____

Miss Gandy _____
Miss Gandy _____

Number One Man Bauknight of the Baltimore office stated that a staff writer for the Baltimore Sun had been in his office today and made reference to an article which appeared in the Sunday edition of the Sun. This article told about a man who reported himself to be an Army private and who was crippled. He went to Cecil B. DeMille in Hollywood, was taken through the studios where he met a number of actors and actresses, and had a voice recording with Claudete Colbert.

Subsequently, he stated he needed money to enter a hospital and they took up a collection for him, but upon checking around, his landlady reported that he is not a private in the Army. The staff writer was contacted by a woman in Baltimore who knows of someone who apparently is the same fellow and is located at present in Baltimore. The Baltimore office has the address. The woman indicated that he probably was in the Army at one time but is not in it at this time.

Bauknight inquired if we had anything on him, and I told him that a check would be made and he would be advised; that, however, it would be well to check with Los Angeles to see if they have any information on him. He said a teletype would be sent to Los Angeles.

Respectfully,

A. Rosen
A. Rosen

RECORDED

EX-46

47-27137-
11 JAN 9 1943



50 JAN 11 1943